

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible coupling having a camera portion and a fixation portion removably  
5 secured to the display to position the camera portion alongside a screen portion of the display;

a camera; and

a camera attachment to attach the camera to the camera portion such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person.

10 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length sufficient to encircle the display.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the flexible loop exerts inward  
15 pressure against the display such that the fixation portion frictionally engages the display.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which the length is insufficient to  
20 encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which the length is sufficient to encircle the display.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a flexible line, wherein the fixation portion is disposed proximate a top side of the display such that the flexible line hangs downward along the screen portion.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a base resting on the top side to grip the fixation portion.

10 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the base retractably grips the fixation portion such that the base is capable of retracting the camera into a retracted position in which the camera is not disposed alongside the screen portion.

9. An apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible loop having a length sufficient to encircle the display, the flexible loop having a camera portion and a fixation portion that exerts pressure against the display to position the camera portion alongside a screen portion of the display;

a camera; and

a camera attachment that attaches the camera to the camera portion such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible loop comprises an elastic band sized to grip the display such that the fixation portion abuts a back side of the display.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible loop comprises:

a strap; and

an adjustment mechanism that engages the strap to tighten the strap around the display.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least a portion of the flexible loop is transparent.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the camera attachment permits rapid, manual removal of the camera from the camera portion.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the camera attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to a back side of the camera and a second portion affixed to the camera portion.

5 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the camera attachment comprises a clip disposed on a back side of the camera to selectively engage the camera portion.

10 16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the camera attachment comprises an adhesive disposed between a back side of the camera and the camera portion to permanently affix the camera to the camera portion.

17. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a display attachment that attaches the fixation portion to the display.

15 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the display attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion attached to the display and a second portion attached to the fixation portion.

19. An apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising:

a base resting on the display over a screen portion of the display;

a flexible line suspended from the base, the flexible line having a camera  
5 portion disposed alongside the screen portion and fixation portion attached to the base; and

a camera attached to the camera portion such that the camera is suspended from the flexible line and positioned between the screen portion and the person.

10 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the base rests on a top side of the display in an unsecured manner.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a display attachment that attaches the base to a top side of the display.

15 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the display attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to the top side and a second portion affixed to the base.

20 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the display attachment comprises a suction cup disposed on an underside of the base to selectively engage the top side.

24. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the base comprises a retractor that selectively exerts tension on the fixation portion to retract the camera into a retracted  
25 position in which the camera is not disposed alongside the screen portion.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the retractor comprises a pulley around which the fixation portion is disposed, wherein the pulley is rotatable to draw the camera into the retracted position.

26. A method for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising:

providing a flexible coupling having a camera portion and a fixation portion;

providing a camera;

5 attaching the camera to the camera portion with a camera attachment; and

securing the fixation portion to the display such that the camera portion is suspended alongside a screen portion of the display, between the screen portion and the person.

10 27. The method of claim 26, wherein providing the flexible coupling comprises providing a flexible loop having a length sufficient to encircle the display.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein securing the fixation portion to the display comprises disposing the flexible loop to exert inward pressure against the  
15 display such that the fixation portion frictionally engages the display.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which the length is insufficient to encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which the length is sufficient to encircle  
20 the display.

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising:

providing an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display.

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31. The method of claim 26, wherein providing the flexible coupling comprises providing a flexible line, and wherein securing the fixation portion to the display comprises disposing the fixation portion proximate a top side of the display such that the flexible line hangs downward along the screen portion.

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32. The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
providing a base; and  
disposing the base to rest on the top side to grip the fixation portion.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein the base retractably grips the fixation portion such that the base is capable of retracting the camera into a retracted position in which the camera is not disposed alongside the screen portion.

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34. An apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible coupling means having a camera portion and a fixation portion removably secured to the display to position the camera portion alongside a screen portion of the display;

a camera; and

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an attachment means to attach the camera to the camera portion such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person.